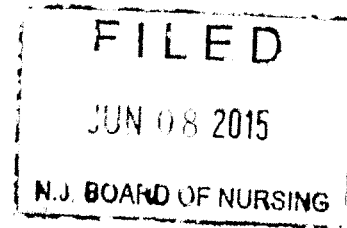


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
KATIE M. RICHTER, L.P.N.	:	OF LICENSE
LICENSE # NP 06022100	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED	:	
PRACTICAL NURSE (L.P.N.) IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Respondent, Katie M. Richter, is the holder of License No. NP 06022100 and is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey whose license is currently inactive.

2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board which she signed on or about December 9, 2014.

(Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo

evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, ¶¶ 2, 6, and 10) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.

3. In a communication dated March 19, 2015, Jillian Scott, a RAMP case manager, advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with RAMP monitoring requirements, in that she tested positive for hydrocodone and oxycodone in January of 2015, tested positive for alcohol on February 4, 2015, and did not enter treatment as advised by RAMP. She also did not call in a number of times, as required by RAMP to be done on a daily basis, to ascertain whether a screening was scheduled. She did not call in three times in December of 2014, three times in January of 2015, and numerous times in February and March of 2015. She also did not appear for scheduled drug screenings on January 22, 2015, February 25, 2015 and March 2, 2015. (Exhibit B)

4. On or about May 14, 2015, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP. (Exhibit C)

5. The overnight mailing was delivered on May 15, 2015. (Exhibit C) No response has been received to date.

6. A certification from RAMP's director dated June 2, 2015 reiterates the allegations set forth in the March 19, 2015 letter from Jillian Scott, and confirms that Ms. Richter tested positive for hydrocodone and oxycodone on January 9, 2015, and was unable to produce prescriptions for those medications. The certification also indicates Ms. Richter claimed she would enter treatment in February of 2015, but did not do so. A printout is provided demonstrating Ms. Richter's failure to call in daily to ascertain whether drug screenings were scheduled, as is required by the RAMP program, as well as her failure to attend scheduled drug screenings. The certification indicates that Ms. Richter was discharged from RAMP for noncompliance with the program on March 9, 2015, and since that time has not contacted RAMP. (Exhibit D)

7. The private letter agreement signed by respondent, which by its terms has the force and effect of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A, ¶13)

8. Respondent's testing positive for narcotic medications for which she was unable to produce a prescription, her failure to call in daily or attend scheduled drug screenings, as required by the RAMP program, and her failure to enter treatment as instructed by RAMP constitutes a violation of the terms of the private letter agreement, and consequently a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Accordingly,

IT IS on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

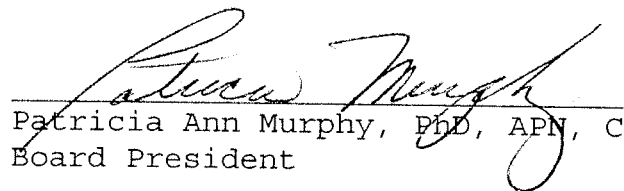
1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.

3. In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without respondent's demonstrating that she is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C  
Board President